

California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Santa Ana Region

December 20, 2004

ITEM: 6

SUBJECT: Amendment to Order No. 01-23, NPDES No. CA0105694, Waste Discharge Requirements, The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Robert B. Diemer Filtration Plant, Order No. R8-2004-0074

DISCUSSION:

On June 1, 2001, the Board adopted Order No. 01-23, NPDES No. CA0105694, renewing waste discharge requirements for the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's Robert B. Diemer Filtration Plant for the discharge of wastewater from the facility into Telegraph Canyon Creek, Carbon Canyon Creek, and other unnamed tributaries.

On April 29, 2004, the discharger requested that Order No. 01-23 be amended to rename the existing Outfall No. 003 to Outfall No. 003 East and to add new Outfall No. 003 West (also known as Settling Basin No. 8 Spillway Conduit). Outfall 003 West is proposed to have a design capacity of 340 MGD and is anticipated to have a maximum daily average discharge of 25,000 GPD. Discharges from this outfall will be to Telegraph Canyon Creek. Construction of the outfall is scheduled to start in January 2005. The effluent water quality from this outfall is anticipated to be the same as the existing Outfall 003 discharges.

The maximum daily average discharge for the renamed Outfall 003 East will remain the same (25,000 GPD) and there will be no physical changes to this outfall.

The discharger has already obtained requisite approvals from the Department of Fish & Game (Fish and Game Code 1601 Streambed Alteration Agreement), Regional Water Quality Control Board (Clean Water Act Section 401 water quality standards certification), and US Army Corps of Engineers (Clean Water Act Section 404 permit) for dredge/fill activities related to the construction of the outfall. A CEQA document for the project was certified by the Metropolitan's Board of Directors in March 2004.

Board Staff believes that the addition of Outfall 003 West to the facility will not adversely affect the beneficial uses of the receiving waters.

The following show the proposed changes to the Order. Additions are bold and highlighted. Deletions are stricken-out.

1. Page 1 of 7 of Order No. 01-23, modify Finding 2 with the following:
2. The Robert B. Diemer Filtration Plant treats a blend of raw water from the California State Water Project and the Colorado River for potable use. The water treatment plant waste is discharged to six settling basins, two of which are used for emergency backup. The following is a list of outfall locations, discharge volumes, and discharge points:

Outfall No.	Latitude	Longitude	Discharge (gpd)	Discharge to
001 <sup>1</sup>	33°54'36"	117°48'50"	100,000	Telegraph Canyon Creek and Carbon Canyon Creek
002 <sup>2</sup>	33°54'50"	117°49'20"	-----	Unnamed water course and Carbon Canyon Creek
003 <sup>3</sup> East	33°54'49"	117°49'01"	25,000	<b>Telegraph Canyon Creek</b>
003 <sup>4</sup> West	33°55'65"	117°48'94"	25,000	<b>Telegraph Canyon Creek</b>
004 <sup>5</sup>	33°54'51"	117°49'10"	10,000	Unnamed water course and Telegraph Canyon Creek

2. Page 2 of 4 of Monitoring and Reporting Program No. 01-23, modify paragraph B.1. with the following:
  1. ~~A sampling station shall be located where representative samples of the discharge can be obtained from Outfall 001, the four sedimentation basins and Outfall 003; the plant rejection structure (hydraulic overflow, leakage, and nuisance water discharge).~~ **A sampling station shall be located where representative samples of the discharge can be obtained from Outfalls 001, 002, 003 East, 003 West and 004.** The following shall constitute the effluent monitoring program:

<sup>1</sup> Four sedimentation basins.

<sup>2</sup> Two emergency discharge sedimentation basins.

<sup>3</sup> **Plant rejection structure (hydraulic overflow, leakage, and nuisance water discharge).**

<sup>4</sup> **Settling Basin No. 8 Spillway Conduit (340 MGD design capacity).**

<sup>5</sup> **Leakage discharge from 25 million gallon reservoir.**

*Staff Report  
Order No. R8-2004-0084, Amending Order No. 01-23  
The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California  
Robert B. Diemer Filtration Plant*

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt Order No. R8-2004-0074 as presented.

Comments were solicited from the following agencies:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Permits Issuance Section – Doug Eberhardt (WTR-5)  
U.S. Army District, Los Angeles, Corps of Engineers – Regulatory Branch  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Carlsbad  
State Water Resources Control Board, Office of the Chief Counsel – Jorge Leon  
State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Water Quality – James Maughan  
California Regional Water Quality Control Board – Los Angeles Region  
State Department of Water Resources - Glendale  
State Department of Fish and Game – Long Beach  
California Department of Health Services – Santa Ana  
Orange County Health Care Agency – Jack Miller  
Orange County Resources and Development Management Department – Chris Crompton  
Orange County Water District – Nira Yamachika  
City of Yorba Linda – City Manager  
Orange County Coastkeeper - Garry Brown  
Lawyers for Clean Water C/c San Francisco Baykeeper

California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Santa Ana Region

ORDER NO. R8-2004-0074

Amending Order No. 01-23, NPDES No. CA0105694  
Waste Discharge Requirements

for

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California  
Robert B. Diemer Filtration Plant  
Yorba Linda, Orange County

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Santa Ana Region (hereinafter, Regional Board), finds that:

1. On June 1, 2001, the Board adopted Order No. 01-23, NPDES No. CA0105694, renewing waste discharge requirements for the Robert B. Diemer Filtration Plant, which is owned and operated by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (hereinafter discharger). Wastewater discharges from the Plant are to Telegraph Canyon Creek, Carbon Canyon Creek, and other unnamed tributaries. These creeks flow into the Santa Ana River or San Gabriel River.
2. On April 29, 2004, the discharger requested that Order No. 01-23 be amended to rename the existing Outfall No. 003 to Outfall No. 003 East and add new Outfall No. 003 West (also known as Settling Basin No. 8 Spillway Conduit).
3. The existing outfall No. 003 is the current Plant Rejection Structure at Telegraph Canyon Creek and serves the entire facility. The outfall is permitted for a maximum discharge of 25,000 gallons per day (gpd). Wastewater discharges into Outfall 003 come from minor plant leakage, sample/instrument water flow from plant operations, sedimentation basins leakage, and "non-industrial" storm water.
4. The settling Basin No. 8 Spillway Conduit Project will modify the existing outfall No. 003 to separate the plant rejection into two distinct outfalls, East and West outfalls. There will be no physical changes to Outfall No. 003. The new Outfall 003 West is anticipated to have a maximum daily average discharge of 25,000 gpd. The effluent water quality from Outfall 003 West will be the same as Outfall 003 East.
5. In accordance with Water Code Section 13389, the amendment of Order No. 01-23 is exempt from those provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act contained in Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 21100), Division 13 of the Public Resources Code.
6. The Regional Board has notified the discharger and other interested agencies and persons of its intent to prescribe waste discharge requirements for the discharge and has provided them with an opportunity to submit their written views and recommendations.
7. The Regional Board, in a public meeting, heard and considered all comments pertaining to the discharge.

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that Order No. 01-23, NPDES No. CA0105694 be amended as follows:

1. Page 1 of 7 of Order No. 01-23, replace Finding 2 with the following:
  2. The Robert B. Diemer Filtration Plant treats a blend of raw water from the California State Water Project and the Colorado River for potable use. The water treatment plant waste is discharged to six settling basins, two of which are used for emergency backup. The following is a list of outfall locations, discharge volumes, and discharge points:

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2. Page 2 of 4 of Monitoring and Reporting Program No. 01-23, replace paragraph B.1. with the following:
  1. A sampling station shall be located where representative samples of the discharge can be obtained from Outfalls 001, 002, 003 East, 003 West and 004. The following shall constitute the effluent monitoring program:
3. All other conditions and requirements of Order No. 01-23, NPDES No. CA0105694 shall remain unchanged.

I, Gerard J. Thibeault, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Santa Ana Region, on December 20, 2004.

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Gerard J. Thibeault  
Executive Officer

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<sup>1</sup> Four sedimentation basins.  
<sup>2</sup> Two emergency discharge sedimentation basins.  
<sup>3</sup> Plant rejection structure (hydraulic overflow, leakage, and nuisance water discharge).  
<sup>4</sup> Settling Basin No. 8 Spillway Conduit (340 MGD design capacity).  
<sup>5</sup> Leakage discharge from 25 million gallon reservoir.